

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SAN REMO FORESHORE RESERVE



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Remo Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Inc. (CoM) are appointed as delegated managers of approximately 27.5 hectares of coastal Crown land. The land is reserved for public purposes and comprises of seven kilometres of foreshore Reserve situated at the western-most point of the Anderson Peninsula.

This Management Plan provides a comprehensive overview of existing conditions, identifies the Vision for the Reserve and future directions. It provides the foundation for decision-making and resource requirements and will be reviewed and revised every 3 years.

The Vision for the Reserve is:

To enhance and protect the natural and built assets of our San Remo Foreshore; whilst providing our diverse community with appropriate access to our coast. This will be achieved by:

- *Creating a sustainable approach for future viability*
- *Taking a leadership role in partnership development*
- *Fostering co-operative approaches to build strong relationships with our community*
- *Actioning relevant aspects of the Victorian Coastal Strategy*
- *Leveraging our assets and commercial options*
- *Recognition/acknowledge existing Heritage Sites*

To strive for the Vision a number of objectives have been developed. The objectives are supported by strategies and actions that are documented in work plans.

The objectives of CoM are to:

- Develop a track for the entire San Remo Foreshore Reserve, with relevant features
- Establish a Management Plan
- Develop an annual Budget
- Prepare an annual Business Plan
- Facilitate the development of the Jetty Precinct Plan
- Redevelop Lions Park (San Remo Community Park)
- Seek clarification/understanding of the San Remo Foreshore boundaries
- Develop a Risk Register with mitigation responses
- Review annually the Memorandum of Understanding with; Bass Coast Shire Council and San Remo Fisherman's Co-operative
- Develop an Memorandum of Understanding with Vic Roads
- Improve the communication with the community and partners
- Adhere to the principles of good governance
- Ensure that weeds on the foreshore are controlled and that our native species are nurtured and flourish

- Set the future direction and ensure ongoing compliance with Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) policies for the Foreshore caravan park

High Priority Management Actions

1. Maintaining and protecting the natural and built environment of the San Remo Foreshore Reserve.

This will include the development and implementation of the vegetation and weed control plan and the development of risk management processes arising from risks identified in DSE reports. A risk register that includes targeted risk mitigation strategies will support risk management processes.

2. Developing a track around the entire San Remo Foreshore Reserve.

This will include completing the concept designs for the entire Reserve and developing an implementation plan for the staged development of a track around the entire Reserve linking to Potters Hill Road. The “San Remo Coastal Circuit”

3. Clarification and documentation of the San Remo Reserve boundaries.

The Reserve is bounded by land managed by a range of stakeholders including Vic Roads, Bass Coast Shire Council and individual titleholders. The clarification process will enable identification of the exact area managed by the CoM and will assist in identifying any anomalies.

4. Facilitating the development of a plan for the Jetty Precinct.

The planning for the Jetty Precinct is of key importance to the CoM and the entire San Remo community. The objective is to ensure that the key stakeholders are involved in a partnership to ensure an appropriate plan is developed.

5. Ensuring ongoing financial viability of the Foreshore CoM.

In order to continue the activities the CoM must remain financially viable. This includes developing sustainable income, optimising of assets and planning for maintenance and replacement of assets.

6. Implementing the Master Plan for the Lions Park (San Remo Community Park).

This project has the potential to become a showcase for San Remo. A Master Plan has been prepared and community consultation has been undertaken. The implementation of the plan will be undertaken over the next 12 months.

7. Develop and implement a Management Plan that ensures the commercial and environmental viability of the Foreshore caravan park.

This will include completing a feasibility study and management plan that is compliant with Government and DSE requirements.

Recent Achievements

- Established the playground in Marine Parade.
- Established the Memorial Cairn that pays tribute to the fishermen of the area in Marine Parade.
- Rock sea wall and connecting walking track.
- Completed a Master Plan for further development of the Lions Park (San Remo Community Park) including:
 - Extensive plantings;
 - Endorsement by the community;
 - Removal of cyclone fence and erection of a new safety fence;
 - Completion of pedestrian pathways;
 - Temporary labyrinth; and
 - Covered seating complete with soft fall.
- Established a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Remo Fishermans Co Operative to cover the recent construction project.
- Established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bass Coast Shire that covers communication protocols, maintenance arrangements, financial issues and planning issues.
- Implemented Foreshore caravan park improvements including:
 - Upgrading main power supply;
 - Installation of new hot water system;
 - Upgrading power heads; and
 - Commissioning of a feasibility study for the park.
- Installation of a safety fence at the top of Western Port cliffs.
- Commenced development of a Master Plan for the proposed track to circumnavigate the San Remo peninsula including:
 - Completing a land survey of the Bass Straight precinct;
 - Developing concept plans for the walking track in the Bass Straight precinct; and
 - Developing a funding program.

INTRODUCTION AND CURRENT SITUATION

Land Status and Management Responsibilities

DSE acts as the landowner on behalf of the Crown and delegates the management responsibilities to a CoM. The Minister for Environment and Climate Change and

Innovation appoints the volunteer CoM to manage, improve, maintain and control the land for the purposes for which it is reserved.

The San Remo Foreshore Reserve (the Reserve) is Crown land reserved for public purposes pursuant to the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*.

The San Remo CoM was incorporated in 1990 and the current seven members were selected via an Expression of Interest process in November 2007 for a three-year term expiring on 30 June 2010.

Reserve regulations were declared in 1986 and set out the powers of the CoM to regulate behaviour, shooting, damage, camping use of facilities, issuing of permits and animal management, use of vehicles and granting of permits.

The Reserve reference number is RS3972/8 and it is made up of ten Crown Allotments in the Parish of Woolamai.

The CoM need to adhere to a significant range of legislation, frameworks and policies and outlined in Appendix 1.

DSE provides advice and guidance to CoMs and assists in resolving issues and building relationships with their key stakeholders. The CoM's are eligible to apply for various grants from the DSE and are required under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to provide financial or audited annual statements to the DSE.

Committees are advised to prepare Management Plans to assist in providing strategic direction and grant opportunities. Once approved by the Minister actions designated in this plan are an approved form of consent under the *Coastal Management Act 1995*.

THE STUDY AREA

San Remo was formed as a fishing village. It is situated at the southern entrance to Western Port at the edge of a fast flowing current known as "The Narrows" that runs between Phillip Island and the mainland. San Remo is in the Bass Coast Shire in the Anderson Ward.

Marine Parade and the businesses that operate in that area dominate the town and commercial centre. The western end is notable for the pier and jetties that service the commercial and recreational fishing and is the location for the iconic San Remo Fishermans Co Operative. Pelicans are fed daily in this area and are a major free tourist drawcard.

The Foreshore Reserve consists of Crown land between Potters Hill road on the Western Port side and Bore Beach on Bass Strait. Refer to four precincts below.

Western Port is a listed Ramsar site protected under the FPBC Act and covered by the Ramsar Convention. The convention is an intergovernmental treaty dedicated to the conservation and "wise use" of wetlands. The Convention's mission is: *'the conservation*

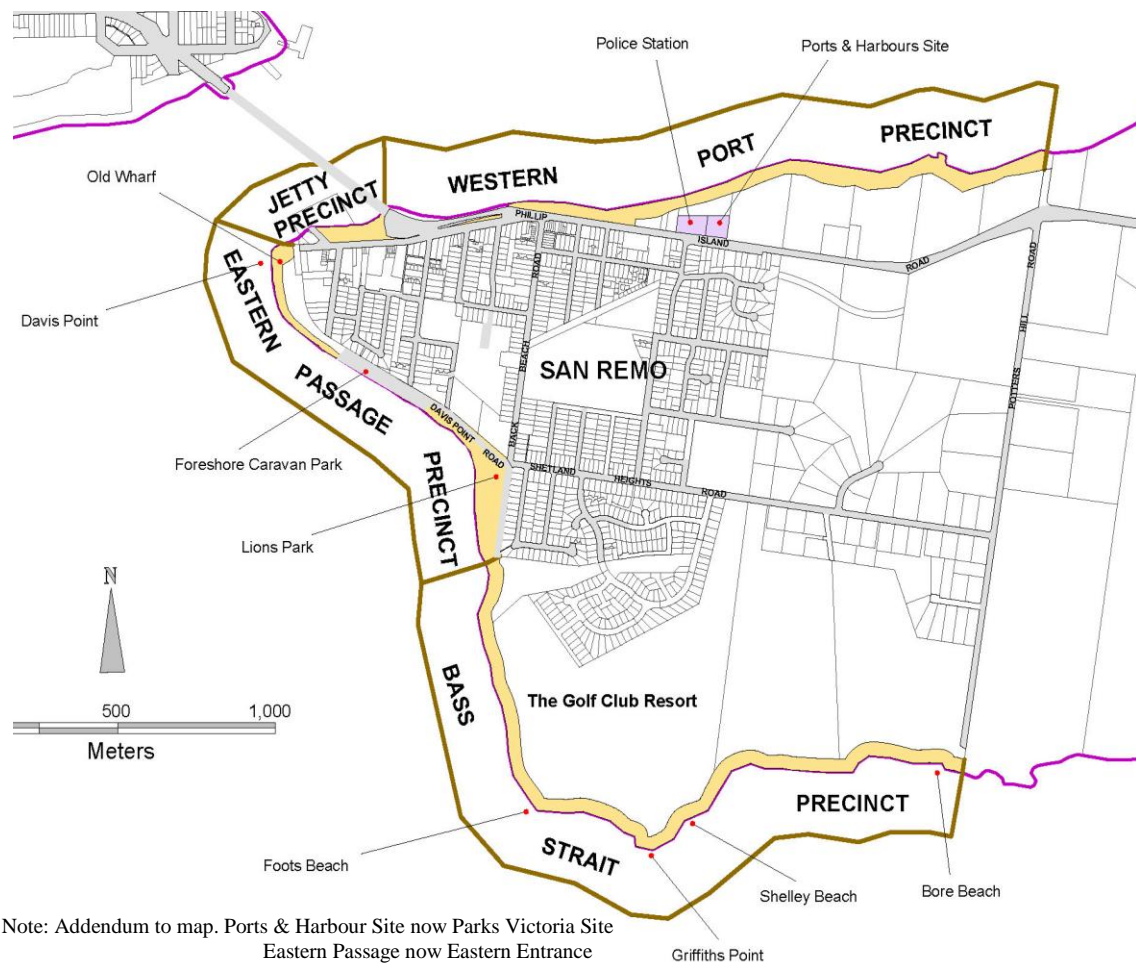
and wise use of wetlands by national action and international cooperation as a means to achieving sustainable development throughout the world’.

Western Port is a site of national zoological significance as a foraging area and high tide roosting site for migratory waders, as well as for its population of the endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. It is a site of national botanical significance for its extensive salt marsh communities and also has a number of sites of national and international geomorphologic significance.

An intertidal and sub tidal marine community is listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 as the San Remo Marine Community since 1999. The Act is the key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes.

The Reserves Four Precincts

In recognition of the diversity of the San Remo Foreshore Reserve, the vegetation and the expectations of the community, the CoM have divided the Reserve into four distinct precincts. The precincts also assist the CoM to develop appropriate management actions.



MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

Consultation has been an important process in developing this plan. Extensive research and consultation has occurred. A draft of this plan has been provided to the following stakeholders:

Stakeholder	Method of Consultation
The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)	Workshops, discussions and review of draft plan. Final draft provided to Public Land Services Gippsland
Bass Coast Shire Council	Draft Management Plan to CEO
San Remo Foreshore CoM	Workshops and review of draft plan
Parks Victoria	Draft Management Plan to District Chief Ranger
Vic Roads	Draft Management Plan to Manager Program Development Gippsland
San Remo Fishermans Co Operative	Draft Management Plan to Chairman of the Board
San Remo Community	Feature article in Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser Advertisement in Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser advising interested people to seek a copy of Draft Management Plan with Feedback Form from Bendigo Bank in San Remo.
San Remo Traders Association	Draft Management Plan to Chairman

Indigenous heritage, European history

Indigenous Heritage

The Indigenous Heritage is based on a report to the CoM Cultural Heritage Assessment and Management Plan (AAV Project 2164 Project 1404) Tardis Enterprises Pty. Ltd (Murphy 2003). San Remo occurs in the traditional land of the Bunurong people. The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation are in the process of registering as an Aboriginal Party to oversee the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006* between Werribee River in the west, Dandenong Ranges to the north and Tarwin River east of Wilson's Promontory (Murphy 2003, AAV website).

European contact with the Bunurong in Western Port was initially by sealers and whalers in Bass Strait from the late 1790's. The Bunurong also occupied French and Phillip Islands until displaced by sealers. However it was 1802 when the first European contact was made with the Bunurong near Bass River. All records of European and Bunurong contact until 1835, have been recorded as peaceful, despite accounts from early as 1826 of Europeans 'kidnapping' and 'taking' aboriginal women as slaves and concubines.

In 1839 William Thomas was appointed Assistant Protector, in charge of the welfare of Aboriginals (Murphy 2003). Thomas completed a census in 1839 of the Bunurong, which suggested that the tribe once consisted (before European settlement) of over 500 people or six square miles per person. A count in the same year revealed that there were 83 members of the Bunurong remaining, many falling victim to small pox, influenza and venereal disease. In 1850 the count was 28 and by 1856 the remaining Bunurong were moved to a reserve in 'Moody Yallock,' known today as Mordialloc (Murphy 2003).

Within the tribe of the Bunurong the *Yallock Bulluk Beek* clan occupied San Remo (Yallock meaning river and Balug meaning people). They survived by hunting any meat in the area including eels, kangaroos, possums and koala. Fishing also appears to have been a dominant activity. The availability of food and materials would have been seasonally based; including such components as mutton-birds and nesting birds and their eggs in spring and seals in the summer. Fruit and vegetable components consisted of the murnong (Yam Daisy), wattle gum (seeds and gum), drooping mistletoe, kangaroo apple, wild cherry, wild current (fruits), sea celery (stems), coastal banksia (nectar), casaurina (water from foliage), angular pigface (leaves, fruits, roots) wetland root crops (such as *Typha*, *Triglochin*) and dry land root crops (such as *Microseris scaigera*). Early Europeans noted the use of fire in the landscape as early as 1802 in which they concluded aboriginal people deliberately lighted fires.

Particular points of interest outlined in the Draft Cultural Heritage Assessment are Griffiths Point, Shelly Beach and Bore Beach, in the Bass Strait precinct. Large middens can be found at Griffith Point that signifies the importance to past generations of Bunurong people. Shelly Beach is generally understood to be of

important to the Bunurong women, using the shells, which collected on the beach they made items to trade with other clans. Rocks falling from the cliffs were used to make grind bowls. Bore Beach received its name due to the drilling for coal by the early European settlers. Bunurong men prepared stone tools and collected Ochre for ceremonies. Mutton-birds and penguins were also found at this site. Both Shelly and Bore Beaches had a permanent supply of fresh water.

There are 16 Registered Archaeological Sites in the San Remo area ranging from low to very high significance including two burial sites. These are not listed in this document due to fear of potential interference. Any work undertaken in the Reserve will need to be mindful of these important sites and the requirements of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006*.

European History

In 1797 George Bass, a naval surgeon and explorer, took a voyage in an open whaleboat to explore the coastline. George Bass named Western Port in 1798 after been forced inland whilst exploring Bass Strait. Bass explored the area for two weeks until he came across the fresh waters of what is now known as the Bass River. In his report George Bass noted the vast seal colonies of the region and encouraged sealers into the area.

In the subsequent years other English and French vessels visited Western Port. By the 1820's there were camps of sealers on Phillip Island and the other islands of Bass Strait. In 1834 Captain Hart led the first expedition of whalers from Portland to collect wattle bark.

Samuel Anderson and his business partner Robert Massie first settled the area in 1835. Around 1840 a deepwater port was established at Davis Point in order to provide exports of wattle bark, farm produce and cattle, and then later coal starting in the 1870s.

In 1867 a survey by Callanan separated the township of Griffiths Point (San Remo) into 28 lots. In 1888 the township was renamed San Remo after the resort town in Italy. Early in the 20th Century, commercial fishing of King George Whiting began with the produce being sent to Melbourne markets via railway.

In addition to the 16 sites of Aboriginal Heritage, Murphy (2003) describes a number of European sites with regional historical significance. Limited evidence has remained and the coastal environment has taken its toll. Figure 2 (below) shows the location or assumed location of these sites taken from old maps.

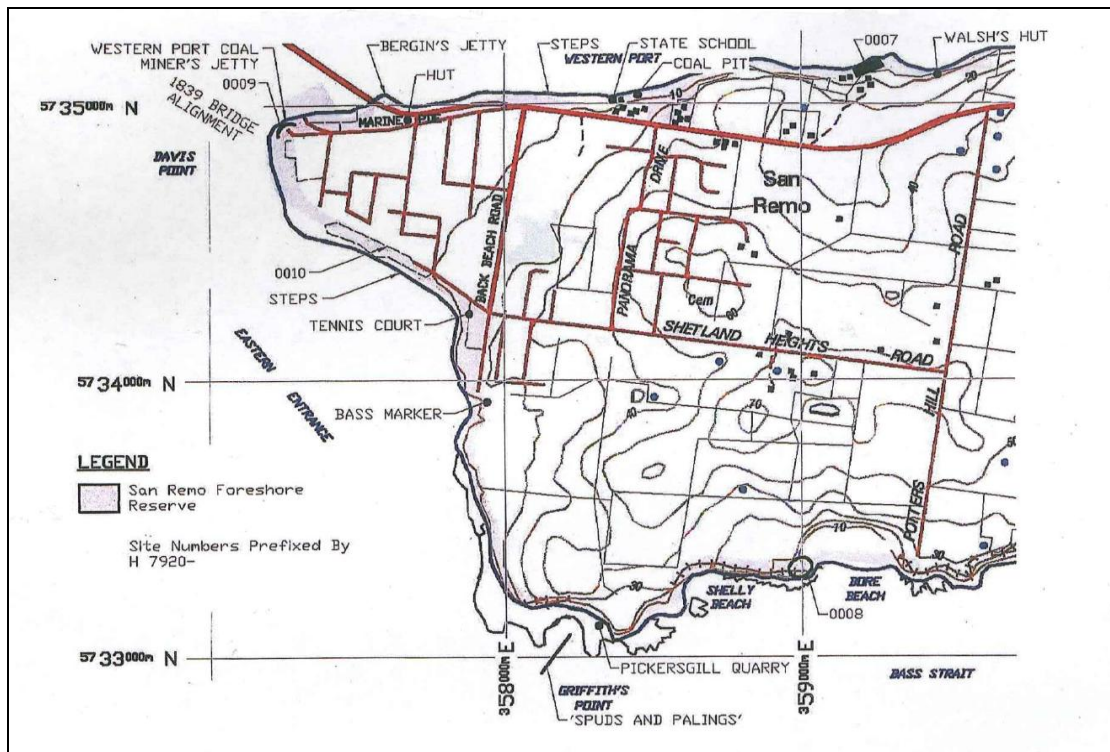


Figure 2 Location of European Historical Sites in San Remo Foreshore Reserve. (Source: Figure 5, Murphy 2003)

The site marked 0007 (Heritage Register No. HV 7920-0007) is named 'Fiddlers Green'. Murphy (2003) describes the hut as having been built approximately 1866. According to the Victorian Heritage Register the site is of high local historical significance. It has a high probability of having onsite deposits and remaining parts of the residence.

The site named 'Coal Pit' was once a local coal pit consisting of an adit and vertical shaft. The site was never a commercial coal pit but utilised by locals. The 'Coal Pit' is on the same site as the State School No. 1369. The school was opened in 1874 and moved between 1893-96 due to complaints about the coal pit and safety of the students. This location is today adjacent to the Police Reserve.

There were a number of jetties in the area including the Western Port Jetty, Minor's Jetty, Bergin's Jetty. The site marked 009 (HV 79220-0009), is the Griffiths Point Jetty/Wharf. Griffiths Point Jetty was built in the 1860's with remnants able to be seen on the beach today.

The site marked '0010' (Heritage Register No. HV 7920-0010) is the site of the old tramway linking San Remo (Griffith's Point as it was once known as) to Kilcunda. The remnants of such can still be seen in the caravan park. Murphy (2003) identifies the development of the caravan park as a major threat to this site.

The marked '0008' (Heritage Register No. HV 7920-0008) is a site of 1860's coal bores, where iron pegs still remain in rocks. It may be a site of human burials however at present none have been discovered. Murphy (2003) identifies coastal erosion as one of the threats to this site in addition to pedestrian traffic on top of the cliff.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Social Context

The traditional owners, the Bunurong Community, value this coastline (particularly the southern beaches) for links to past and spiritual ties to their ancestors.

Today the community values the Reserve for recreation, environmental values and affiliations with the tourism industry.

At the 2006 census, San Remo had a population of 1017 with a median age of 53 years. The total labor force was 381 people and the median weekly individual income was below the medium weekly income across Australia.

Strategic Planning for Coastal Environments

“The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 provides a comprehensive integrated management framework for the coast of Victoria”.¹ The Strategy is established under the Coastal Management Act 1995 and provides for long-term planning of the Victorian coast for the next 100 years and beyond” (Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 Page 5).

It recognises that Victorians have an affiliation with the coast and uses the public areas for recreation, exercise or to unwind. The Coastal Strategy recognises that all people need access to the coast and facilities should cater for different needs.

The Coastal Strategy also recognises that climate change; thus sea level rise and increased storm activity, rising temperatures, will have an impact on the coast and their communities.

Tourism

A one-kilometer bridge in the San Remo town center provides a link from the mainland to the popular holiday destination of Phillip Island. “Phillip Island attracts over 3.1 million visitors per annum (including visitors staying in holiday homes).”²

The surrounding land uses in San Remo are primarily residential including permanent and holiday, associated shops and development, and uses associated with the Foreshore (i.e. car parking, fishing, boating, swimming, walking). A caravan park managed on behalf of the DSE by the CoM is located on the Reserve. It is currently leased to a caravan park operator.

Tourism and holidaymakers are an important component of the economy and viability of San Remo and Phillip Island. One of the Policy Directions in the Victorian Coastal

¹ Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008, page 5

² Bass Coast Shire, Economic Impact of Tourism Urban Enterprise Pty Ltd, 2005

Strategy (Page 51) is to improve and enhance tourists and visitors experience and understanding of the coast, while protecting sensitive and significant areas. Furthermore, the strategy aims to manage community use of foreshore land, buildings and other assets to return the greatest public benefit while protecting environmental and social values and to maintain access to coastal Crown land except when there is the need to protect high value resources, or for security or safety reasons (Page 45).

San Remo is one of the main residential and holiday towns within Bass Coast Shire, historically being based around fishing, but in recent years has experienced both an increases in tourist related activities and a shift towards an aging population as part of the ‘sea change’ phenomenon specifically:

- The population within the study area doubles over the summer holiday period as more than half of the properties are occupied on a part time basis; and
- The topography and location of San Remo adjacent to Bass Strait and Western Port has increased demand for development, particularly development with views.

San Remo is part of the Phillip Island and Bass Coast tourism experience, which is one of Victoria’s most significant tourist destinations. The emerging resort based tourism industry positions San Remo to play a major role in the areas tourism industry.

Land Use Planning

Bass Coast Shire Council plans and manages land use in San Remo. In recent years, the Council has prepared a number of strategic documents, which establish the structure for urban growth.

San Remo and Phillip Island Design Framework 2003

This framework was completed in 2003 and the policy objectives contained within this document were incorporated in the Bass Coast Planning Scheme in August 2008.

The purpose of the framework was to establish a vision, strategies and guidelines that will help shape the structure, function, and appearance of Phillip Island and San Remo over the next twenty years.

The specific vision for San Remo in the San Remo and Phillip Island Design Framework is:

A destination in it’s own right; a lively fishing village with a thriving commercial strip on Marine Parade, a variety of recreational and water-based activities and improved public open spaces on the foreshore.

San Remo Foreshore

The San Remo and Phillip Island Design Framework also provides specific objectives for improving the Foreshore area in San Remo. These objectives can be summarised as:

- Improving vehicular movements and pedestrian circulation; and
- Creating a better design environment and visual experience for residents and tourists.

These objectives are supported by the following recommended actions:

- Short term Actions : Up to three years
 - Develop and improve San Remo foreshore for visitor and community events
 - Reduce the size of the under-utilised foreshore car park east of the toilet block re-develop this area as the public focus of San Remo
 - Relocate the public toilet block from its existing location to a site where views will not be impeded
 - Plant trees for shade along the foreshore car park edge
 - Investigate the creation of a public focal point at the position of the current toilet block
 - Upgrade and reduce in size the gravel car park between the fisherman's co-op and the caravan park (Davis Point)
 - Replace the barbecues, picnic furniture, and shelters with modern facilities
 - Provide the playground area with shading and seating
- Medium Term Actions : three to 10 years
 - Improve pedestrian access to and around the foreshore by extending footpaths from east to west. Continue the path through the area behind the fishermans co-op
 - Replace the barbecues, picnic furniture, and shelters with modern facilities

San Remo Newhaven and Cape Woolamai Structure Plan 2008

Council adopted the San Remo Newhaven and Cape Woolamai Structure Plan in April 2008.

The San Remo, Newhaven and Cape Woolamai Structure Plan is a strategic framework for the future growth and development of the three towns. The purpose of the Structure Plan is to identify the strategic planning issues facing the towns, including community needs and aspirations, and to articulate the preferred future

directions for growth, whilst protecting and enhancing the very elements which make the towns distinctive and functional as urban areas and tourist destinations.

The San Remo, Newhaven, and Cape Woolamai Structure Plan make the following statements about the San Remo Foreshore Reserve:

It is in need of a substantial upgrade to make this public space more attractive to tourists and the community and to capitalise on its prime waterfront location.

San Remo's foreshore is a big drawcard for visitors but presently offers very little in the way of a cohesive and connected experience.

Having established the above position, the implementation plan in the San Remo, Newhaven, and Cape Woolamai Structure Plan provides the following recommended action:

- Facilitate the upgrade of facilities along the waterfront reserve adjacent to San Remo Pier, including the upgrade of the Fisherman's Co-op and piers.

Activities on The Reserve

The CoM seeks to provide access for all members of the community to the coast. The following activities occur in the precincts of the Reserve.

Recreation – Active

- Community and local walking club use tracks on the Foreshore Reserve
- Children's play equipment is located in Lions Park, Davis Point road and Marine Parade
- Swimming at two sandy beaches located adjacent to the Jetty and Foots beach (just south of the car park)
- Fishing off the rock wall located on the Eastern Entrance is a common past time for the community and visitors
- The San Remo Annual Channel Challenge is held on the Reserve
- A temporary labyrinth is located in the Lions Park (San Remo Community Park)
- BBQ facilities are located on the Reserve in Marine Parade and Lions Park (San Remo Community Park)
- The Community and visitors undertake bird watching and photography

Recreation – Passive

- A key attraction for passive recreation on the Foreshore Reserve is the Pelican feeding that occurs daily in the Jetty Precinct
- Viewing areas have been established on walking tracks for the community to take in coastal vistas from the Reserve
- Seating including covered seating has been strategically placed on the Reserve

Key Features of the Reserves Four Precincts

The Western Port Precinct

The Western Port Precinct extends west from Potters Hill road to the San Remo-Phillip Island Bridge and is an area high in natural values.

Key features

- North facing coastline joining Western Port with limited access
- Cypress trees planted by early settlers
- Cliffs adjacent to the main road and the bridge to Phillip Island
- A limited walking track under the bridge and adjacent to the main road
- Fiddlers Green site that has cultural significance as it represents early occupation of the area
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 listed community with unique habitat
- Cliffs with views over Western Port and French Island

Existing key infrastructure

- Gravel path beside bridge abutment
- Safety fence at the top of Western Port cliffs

Adjoining infrastructure

- Fences, roads and footpaths
- Parks Victoria storage depot located on the Phillip Island Tourist Road. The depot is the former Ports & Harbours site and contains vacant buildings and grounds
- A road reserve opposite Potters Hill Road to Western Port

Strengths

- North facing coastline with views overlooking Western Port
- Walking track under the Phillip Island bridge and adjacent to the cliffs
- Fauna and Flora listed area Western Port is also Ramsar, EPBC listed, and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Picturesque location and vistas
- Public protection provided by fencing on cliff tops
- Revegetation programs

Weaknesses

- Cliffs adjacent to main road are unstable and erosion affected
- Adjacent to access road to San Remo and Phillip Island
- Ageing cypress and other pine trees adjacent to main road
- Un protected storm water outlet
- Weed infestation
- No landscape plan
- Limited walking access to some key areas of the Reserve

Opportunities

- Ideal location for comprehensive coastal track
- Integrate the Parks Victoria site on Phillip Island Tourist road to the Reserve and provide viewing area/shelter to compliment the proposed coastal track
- Extend coastal track with key features
- Potential access to the Reserve and coast via the Vic Roads reserve at Phillip Island Tourist Road and Potters Hill road intersection
- Road reserve potential to link the Reserve to Phillip Island Tourist road
- Installation of interpretation signage

Threats

- Not understanding management responsibility of land adjacent to Phillip Island Tourist road
- Vic Roads future plans for traffic management
- Further erosion of cliffs
- Cypress and other pine limbs subject to further damage and falling
- Introduction of more invasive exotic vegetation

The Jetty Precinct

The Jetty Precinct extends from the Phillip Island Bridge to the west end of Marine Parade and is a high activity area.

Key features

- Marine Parade shopping centre that attracts a large volume of visitors
- Jetty and pier that is used by commercial and recreational fishermen
- Activities and events held in the precinct
- Old Phillip Island extension bridge abutment
- San Remo Fishermans Co Operative
- Fishermans Memorial Cairn
- Recreational activities include fishing, swimming, picnics, and Pelican feeding
- Toilet block located on Reserve that attracts a large volume of visitors;
- Electric BBQ's

- Children's playground equipment (Note some uncertainty exists on title boundary and will be further clarified when boundaries are examined)
- Davis Point that is of historical interest and is a popular observation point
- Coastal walking track

Existing key infrastructure

- BBQ facilities in Marine Parade
- Play equipment in Marine Parade
- Toilet block in Marine Parade
- Memorial Cairn to honour lost professional fishermen
- Exposed aggregate concrete paving with tile inlay

Adjoining infrastructure

- San Remo Fishermans Co operative that operates on a DSE lease - the Foreshore Reserve bounds the Co Op area; and
- Gravel road at end of Marine Parade.

Strengths

- High volume of visitors
- Tourist attraction of daily free Pelican feeding adjacent to jetty
- Ability to hold a range of activities and events
- Adjacent to San Remo commercial area
- Play ground equipment on Reserve
- San Remo Fishermans Co Operative that abuts the Reserve

Weaknesses

- High volume of visitors
- Traffic management problems
- Uncertainty of existing boundaries that abut the Reserve
- Ageing amenities block on Reserve
- Unattractive street and coastal land scape on Reserve
- Exposed stormwater outflow pipe
- San Remo Fishermans Co Operative abuts the Reserve
- Multiple land managers resulting in uncertainty of existing boundaries
- Multiple land managers resulting in uncertainty of responsibilities

Opportunities

- Landscape the Reserve to enhance the Foreshore
- Involve all stakeholders in an agreed landscape design

- Stakeholders develop infrastructure in accordance with the agreed plan
- Develop a CoM commercial opportunity
- Installation of shade sails over the play equipment

Threats

- Climate change and the rising tide may lead to loss of beach and Reserve
- Erosion of dunes in Pelican feeding area and Davis Point
- Lack of engagement with multiple land managers
- Increasing through traffic to Phillip island

The Eastern Entrance Precinct

The Eastern Entrance Precinct extends from the western end of Marine Parade to the southern end of the Lions Park (San Remo Community Park) and is a high activity area.

Key features

- Rock wall extending approx 1000 metres to protect coast line
- Beach access and walkway
- Lions Park (San Remo Community Park) with features including BBQ, walking track and sheltered seating
- Significant indigenous and remnant vegetation
- Several beach access points
- Foreshore caravan park

Existing key infrastructure

- Caravan Park fixtures and assets
- Rock sea wall
- BBQ facilities in Lions Park
- Play equipment in Lions Park
- Gravel path to Foots car park
- Timber access stairs
- Play equipment in Davis Point road
- Covered seating
- Brick toilet block

Adjoining infrastructure

- Private properties that have gates that access the caravan park site
- Properties that do not have a fence to the Reserve

Strengths

- Lions Park (San Remo Community Park) with features including playground BBQ, walking track and sheltered seating
- Master Plan completed and endorsed by community for further development of the park
- Temporary sand labyrinth
- Foreshore caravan park
- Controlled access points to beach
- Revegetation programs

Weaknesses

- Beach access impacted by erosion
- Lack of fencing on cliff tops
- Ageing amenities block on Reserve
- Rock fall
- Cliff erosion
- Future viability of Foreshore caravan park

Opportunities

- Improved beach access
- Completion of track
- Implementation of Lions Park (San Remo Community Park) Master Plan including permanent labyrinth and wood fired community oven (Refer pages 22/23).
- Installation of interpretive signs in the San Remo back beach area
- Implementation of DSE caravan park policies
- Prevention of dune erosion for part of the precinct

Threats

- Ongoing maintenance of rock wall to reinstate shifting rocks
- Cliff erosion
- Rock fall
- Access to beach from Lions Park car park

The Bass Strait Precinct

The Bass Strait Precinct extends from the southern end of the Lions Park to Bore Beach adjacent to Potters Hill road and is an area high in natural values.

Key features

- High cliffs and extensive rock platforms that are accessible at low tide

- High conservation focus on natural habitat and landscape
- Heritage sites located at Bore Beach and Shelly Beach
- Walking track to Foots lookout

Existing key infrastructure

- Steps from Foots car park to beach
- Steps from beach to start of track
- Cliff top track above Foots beach

Adjoining infrastructure

- Golf course development
- Future housing development

Strengths

- High conservation focus on natural habitat and landscape
- Heritage sites located at Bore Beach and Shelly Beach
- Existing car park for access to Bore Beach
- Walking track to Foots lookout

Weaknesses

- Weed control
- Links to indigenous/heritage sites
- High cost of development of track

Opportunities

- Completion of track
- Promotion of indigenous links
- Installation of interpretive signs
- Links to indigenous/heritage sites

Threats

- Erosion of cliffs
- Potential hazardous beaches and cliffs
- Safety of beach goers

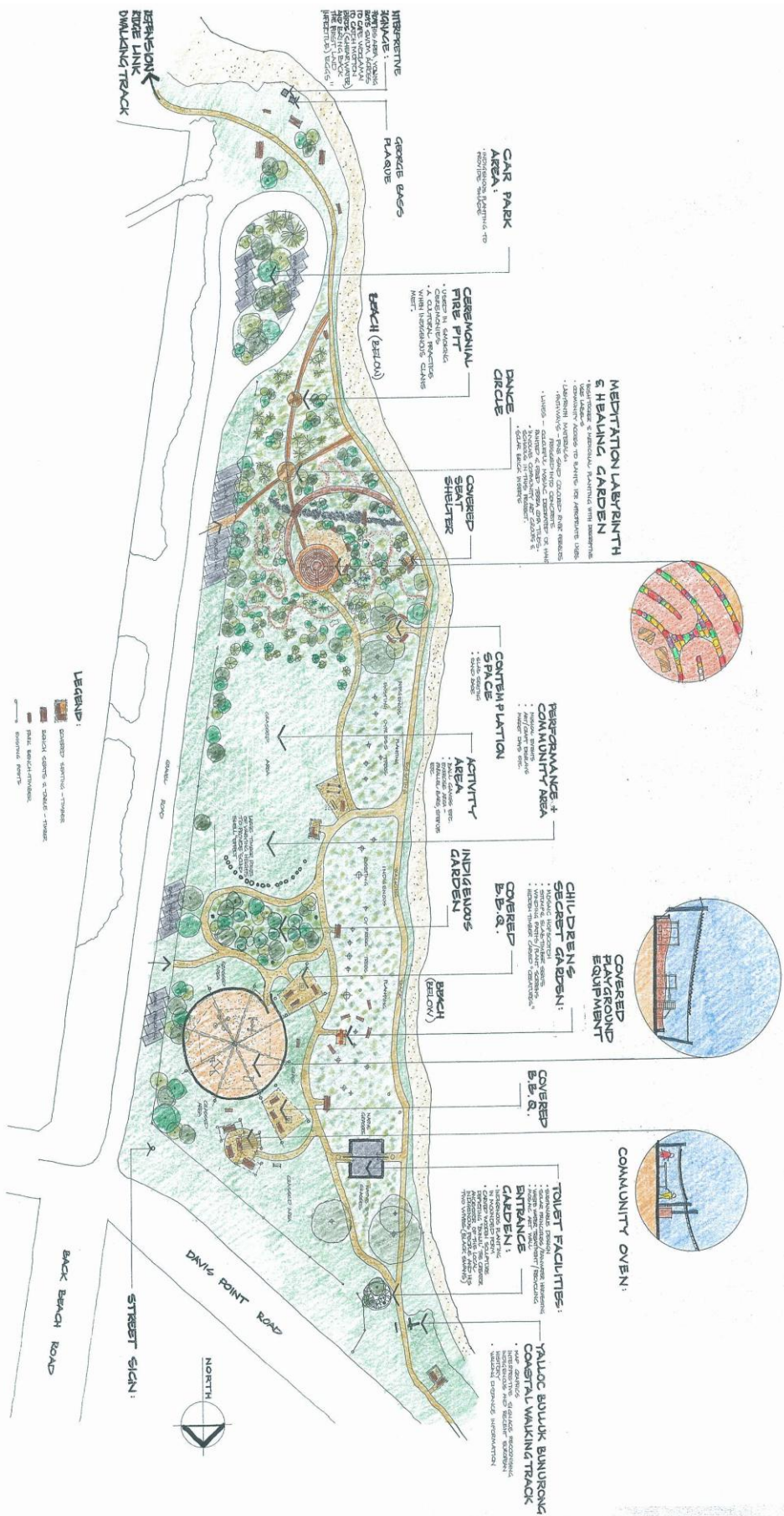
Lions Park Master Plan

The CoM and the San Remo community have endorsed the Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Lions Park.

The consultation with the community and stakeholders has included:

- Consultation with: Bunurong Land Council, Bass Coast Shire Parks and Gardens representative and Indigenous liaison representative and Indigenous and other artists
- Display of Masterplan in prominent public spaces
- Incorporating comments received into the design

DATE: 12 NOV. 2008
SCALE 1:500



Risk analysis

A Risk Audit of coastal Crown land was commissioned by the DSE and GHD was engaged in 2009 to undertake an audit of coastal risks of the Victorian coastline extending along the eastern shore of Western Port.

The overall aim of the project was to facilitate a strategic approach to managing coastal risk across the study area by identifying key risks and providing recommendations to manage them. This would then allow programming of projects and allocation of resources to be conducted in a coordinated way to address or minimise risks at a regional level.

The report stated on Page 18 “....San Remo had highest number of identified hazards of any location (23). This could at least partly be contributed to by the background work and report completed by the San Remo CoM to identify hazards. The most common Hazard Category identified at San Remo was Visitor Facilities with 10 hazards.”³

A priority list of risks was developed with recommended management and mitigation strategies.

The CoM has taken mitigation action for the hazards identified in the Western Port precinct and sought DSE funding. The identified natural cliff erosion has led to a fall hazard. With DSE funding a fence has been erected from west of Back Beach road to just west of Panorama Drive.

The CoM is developing a formal risk management process. This will include the development of appropriate procedures and a risk register with mitigation actions.

Erosion

The DSE commissioned a consultancy with Parsons Brinckerhoff Australia who produced a report entitled Coastal Crown Land in West and South Gippsland Geotechnical Assessment.

The report of September 2009 provided the following comments in relation to the San Remo Reserve.

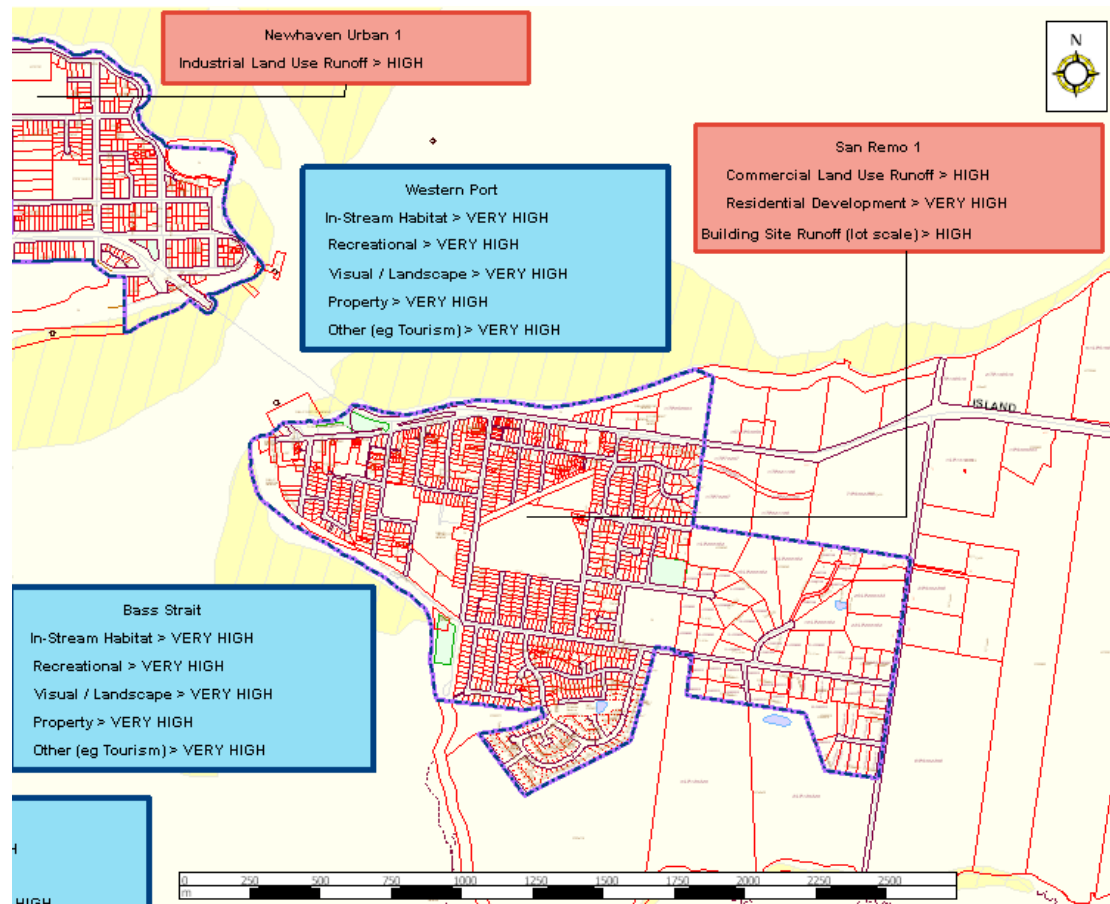
“San Remo, being a large, well populated, study area has several high to very high risks that require immediate attention. These risks mainly relate to several key pieces of infrastructure, for example damage to Phillip Island road could potentially have serious effects on the community of Phillip Island. The north shore of San Remo has the greatest erosion rate whereas the back beach area appeared to be relatively stable due to the deposition of a large sand dune on the beach. This sand dune protects the base of cliffs from wave action.”⁴

³ Department of Sustainability & Environment Coastal Risk Audit, Coastal Crown Land in West & South Gippsland, March 2009

⁴ Parsons Brinckerhoff, Coastal Crown Land in West and South Gippsland Geotechnical Assessment 2009

Drainage

The management of stormwater rests with the Bass Coast Shire and it has developed the Bass Coast Shire storm water Management Plan. The purpose of the storm water Management Plan is to protect and enhance local waterways by improving the quality of storm water draining from urban areas in the Bass Coast Shire.



The Caravan park has no stormwater connection and this was indicated in a recent study commissioned by the CoM.

“Stormwater drainage - during the site visit it was evident that there is no storm water constructed in the park. During heavy rain water runs off as per the natural contours of the land, meaning significant pooling of water in a few areas (particularly on the northern boundary). This not only poses health and safety risks, it is also not particularly appealing to any tourists looking to stay at the park. The management of stormwater needs to be addressed in these areas.”⁵

⁵ Australian Tourist Park Management Feasibility Study September 2009 P. 14

Vegetation Assessment and Weed Control

The CoM commissioned a study by Practical Ecology Pty Ltd in August 2009. The aims of the study were to:

- Identify existing native flora and exotic species on the Reserve;
- Provide detailed maps of the native vegetation and weed infested areas on the Reserve;
- Prepare a weed management plan for each precinct highlighting appropriate time frames and optimal techniques/procedures for weed eradication;
- Supply a current native vegetation condition report; and
- Identify pest animals and control methods.

The report has been adopted by the CoM and provides detailed information to assist in managing the vegetation and weed control. The reports provides:

- Vegetation Assessment;
- Flora Assessment;
- Fauna Habitat Assessment;
- Ecological Vegetation classes;
- Significant Species;
- Native Vegetation condition report;
- Vegetation Management Issues;
- Priority Weeds and Significant Species;
- Pest Animal Management including rabbits and foxes; and
- Weed Management and Control Program including weed control methods and timing.

Climate Change

The Victorian Coastal Strategy was released in December 2008 recommending planning for sea level rise of not less than 0.8m by 2100 based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projections. Sea level rise on its own will not have the greatest impacts on the coast: increased storm events and storm surges will result in damaging waves, erosion, wind and inundation occurring further inland. Flooding, erosion and damage to infrastructure and ecosystems will also occur.

The Gippsland Coastal Board describes the coast of San Remo to have high erodability potential. Davis Point is particularly mentioned as an existing high erosion site. Sea level rise will result in coastal recession as beaches adjust to the new wave and tidal regimes. Based on the simple Bruun Rule, shoreline recession of between 40 m and 79 m can be expected along the Gippsland coast, based on a 0.79 m sea level rise.

The 2070 high emissions projections indicate increased average wind speed, and an increase in annual significant wave height of 8-10 per cent. In addition the increased frequency and intensity of extreme events by approximately 10%; suggesting bigger storms, more often.

Geology

San Remo has some unique geological formations as a result of the proximity to the Bass Fault and Cretaceous terrestrial volcano clastic sediments of Strzelecki Group. Some 45 million years ago Australia separated from the last piece of the ancient Gondwanaland being Antarctica. Australia is regarded as being the oldest continent in the world due to its long period without volcanic/plate activity.

Western Port Precinct

The northern coast of the San Remo Peninsula is a high coast formed in Eocene to Oligocene (Tertiary Period) basalts, of what used to be known as the Older Volcanics, from 55 to 25 million years ago. Over time it has been eroded away to expose the underlying sandstone Mesozoic (either Jurassic or Cretaceous epoch) dated 250 to 150 million years ago. The Mesozoics include beds of grit derived from erosion of the Woolamai granite in the Devonian period some 380 and 440 million years ago. Cluffed sectors are most pronounced towards the east where they are cut in columnar jointed Eocene to Oligocene (Tertiary) basalts. The bluff profiles are straight or irregular where there are occasional small soil slumps. The coast is fronted by a wide gently sloping shore platform, which exposes the contact between Mesozoic sediments (either Cretaceous or Jurassic) and Eocene to Oligocene basalts at several places at low tide. A veneer of pebbles covers most of this platform, and accumulations of pebbles and sand lie above high water mark at the base of most of the bluffs. Pebbles also lie above reach of wave action (1.5 m) in the valley of a small creek. ([SPR5 http://crclme.org.au/Educ/rgg/7-san_remo/](http://crclme.org.au/Educ/rgg/7-san_remo/))

Along the northern coast forms a site of State Significance. The contact between Mesozoic sediments and the basalt is well exposed and the grit beds are uncommon. This coast is distinctive for the width of the shore platform and the evidence of recent abandonment of the sea of the base of the bluffs. The coastal profiles contrast markedly with those in similar lithologies on the ocean coast of the peninsula.

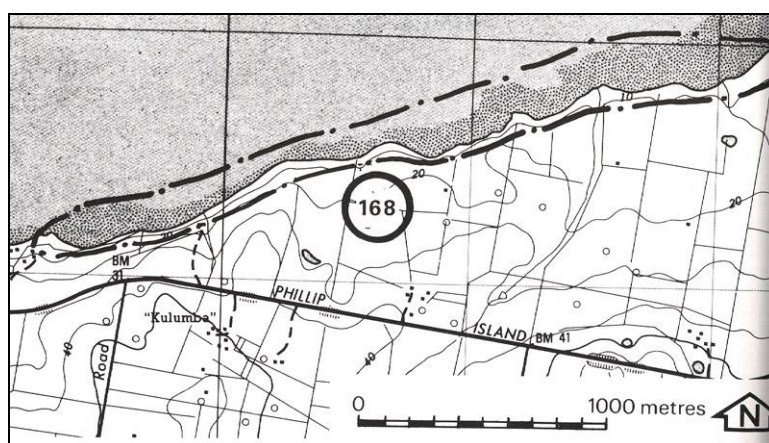


Figure One: Rosengren 1984)

http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/map_documents.nsf/pages/pp_sig_woolamai

Jetty Precinct

Road formation and the construction of the current bridge have changed the geology of the Jetty Precinct. Historically this area would have been a coastal sand dune with sediments from the Quaternary Period some 2.5 million years ago to the present day.

Eastern Entrance Precinct

The Eastern Passage is described as having sandy beaches with large sand dunes to protect the Tertiary basalts from further erosion. Basalt is typically a fine-grained volcanic rock consisting mainly of magnesium and iron minerals. In more recent times a rock wall has been built to protect the highly erodible basalts from further damage and to protect coastal assets.

Bass Strait Precinct

Figure 3 below shows the cliff below the car park at the end of Back Beach Road is of columnar jointed basalt, part of a lava flow which has filled a former valley in the Mesozoic sediments. The small creek and embayment immediately to the south are eroded along the contact between the base of the basalt and the underlying Mesozoic sediments. In the lower part of the cliff, the joint blocks dip less steeply and have the appearance of a 'post pile'. Mesozoic sediments, including visible rock beds containing pebbles of Cape Woolamai granite, are exposed in the cliffs and shore platforms towards Griffiths Point.

This site is of Regional Significance. The site is a clear example of the nature and physiographic effect of the lava flows of the Older Volcanics. The rock beds exposed in the shore platform differ from those included in the Mesozoic rocks elsewhere in the study area.

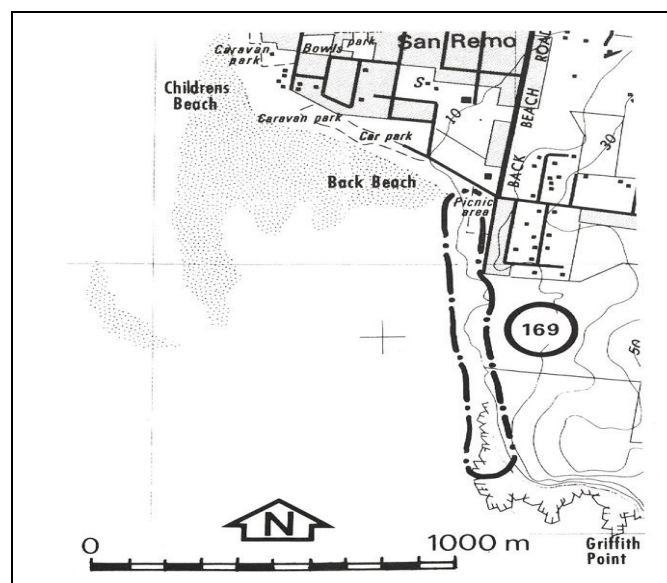


Figure 3 Rosengren 1984)

http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/map_documents.nsf/pages/pp_sig_woolamai

Soils

There are no occurrences of Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils in San Remo.

Western Port Precinct

The Western Port Precinct contains the landforms 'Phillip Island,' 'Flinders,' 'Koonwarra' and 'Merricks' described in the section above.

Jetty Precinct

The Jetty is described as having the landform 'Coastal Dune' described above. It also appears that the landform 'Phillip Island' occurring in undulating low hills, with tertiary basalts and the dominant soil type as red chromo sols.

Red chromo sols are associated with Sodosols in the West Gippsland region. They generally have a loamy surface and with a dense clay subsoil. They are not strongly acidic and are prone to erosion if exposed.

Eastern Entrance Precinct

The Eastern Passage Precinct has various kinds of landforms. The first; named 'Flinders,' consists of a landform of undulating plains with tertiary basalts. The second; 'Merricks,' consists of alluvial plains with Pleistocene to more recent sediments and the last been 'Coastal Dune' consisting of coastal dune fields with more recent sediments (See Figure 3). Soils types vary with the different landforms being grey to brown sodosols, redoxic hydrosols and sandy calcarosols respectively. Sodosols can be separated on the basis of the colour of the upper 20 cm of the subsoil into Red, Brown, Yellow, Grey and Black groups. Further separations are made largely on the basis of the soil's chemical characteristics.

Sodosols are most common in the eastern (lower rainfall zone) part of the region. They occur on tertiary sediments and on the extensive alluvial plains and river terraces deposited during the Peistocene Period. When these soils occur on solid geology (sedimentary low hills and rises) they are associated with salinity and prone to gully and tunnel erosion with numerous saline seeps.

Hydrosols cover a wide range of soils that are seasonally or permanently saturated (for at least 2-3 months per year). Redoxic refers to the presence of sodium in the soil type.

Calcarosols soils generally have poor plant water/nutrient holding capacities. These soils may be hydrophobic (in conjunction with organic coatings) when dried out, taking time to reabsorb moisture. These soils do however drain rapidly.

Bass Strait Precinct

The Bass Strait Precinct is characterised as having a landform of undulating hills with cretaceous sediments ranging from 150-50 million years ago. The dominant soils for the area are mapped as yellow and brown Kurosols. Kurosols are generally an

acidic soil known to have an abrupt increase in clay down the soil profile. Generally they are found in a higher rainfall area on either Palaeozoic, Cretaceous or Tertiary sediments.

Signage Policy

The CoM has developed a signage policy for the Reserve. Part of that policy has included the design of a logo. The logo depicts the popular essence of San Remo and includes a depiction of Pelicans and boats.

The logo is included in the documentation of the CoM and will be included in signs erected on the Reserve.

The signage is consistent with the standards developed by other authorities eg. Bass Coast Shire and the materials used are sympathetic to the environment. Interpretative signs will be developed to support initiatives undertaken by the CoM on the Reserve.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Actions for Entire Reserve

Management Aim	Management Action	Priority
Maintaining and protecting the natural environment of the Reserve.	Implementing the Vegetation Management Plan	High
	Refer to BCSC Environment Sustainability Plan 6.1-6.3	High
	Developing a maintenance program in partnership with the BCSC	High
	Implement actions from the DSE risk audit report 2009	High
Developing the track around the entire San Remo Foreshore Reserve.	Develop detailed construction drawings	Medium
	Develop a funding program	High
	Implement funding program	High
	Develop staged implementation plan	Medium
	Commence tender process	Medium
Continue to maintain good governance	Commence construction	Medium
	Prepare annual audited financial statements	High
	Identification of income generating activities	Medium
	Continue to monitor and apply for appropriate grants	High
	Annual planning and monitoring of actions completed	High
Managing and maintaining built assets on the Reserve	Comply with all legal requirements, Government standards and guidelines and MOU's.	High
	Complete audit and condition report Develop risk management processes including risk register	Medium High
Clarification and documentation of the San Remo Reserve boundaries	Liase with DSE & BCSC	High
Develop and implement a program for domestic cats and dogs.	Consult with community and refer to BCSC policies	Medium

Actions by Precinct

Western Port

Management Aim	Management Action	Priority
Foreshore erosion	Develop remedial plans Seek funding support from DSE/Vic Roads	Medium
Review dangerous trees annually	Complete works as recommended by arbourist	High
Consider inclusion of Parks Victoria site in Reserve	Liase with Parks Victoria & DSE	Medium
Investigate options to redesign stormwater outfall	Liase with Western Port Water & BCSC to have remedial work undertaken	Medium

Jetty

Management Aim	Management Action	Priority
Manage reinstatement and revegetation of Davis point arising from redevelopment of Fishermans Co Op.	Liase with Fishermans Co Op	High
Redevelopment of Jetty precinct	Convene a meeting with stakeholders to commence development of a Jetty Precinct concept plan including; BCSC DSE Parks Victoria Fishermans co op Vic Roads San Remo traders Western Port Water Develop a plan in partnership with stakeholders	High High
Identify impact of rising sea level	Seek DSE funding for Foreshore Vulnerability Study	Medium
Provide shade sails over the play equipment.	Design shade sails Obtain relevant permits	High

Eastern Entrance

Management Aim	Management Action	Priority
Ongoing maintenance and extension of rock wall	Seek DSE funds to extend rock wall to meet specifications	High
Develop management plan for caravan park	Accept final feasibility report	High
	Consult with stakeholders	High
	Commission a detailed Management Plan	Medium
	Ensure ongoing maintenance of infrastructure	Medium
	Ensure lessee obligations are complied with	High
	Ensure compliance with DSE policies and directions	High
Redevelopment of Lions Park	Seek Funding	High
	Consultation with Lions Club	High
	Complete consultation with indigenous representatives	High
	Consultation with artistic representatives	Medium
	Develop detailed concept plans	Medium
	Commence staged implementation	Medium
Examine transfer of Davis Point road to BCSC	Liase with BCSC	Medium

Bass Strait

Management Aim	Management Action	Priority
Ongoing maintenance of signage to warn of hazardous swimming beaches	Seek funding	High

Budget analysis

Incoming revenue for previous years

Year	Amount
2006/07	\$59,509
2007/08	\$79,064
2008/09	\$86,162

Expenditure for previous years

Year	Amount
2006/07	\$
2007/08	\$82,847
2008/09	\$81,459

Projected incoming revenue

Year	Amount
2009/10	\$75,000
2010/11	\$77,000
2011/12	\$77,000

Projected expenditure

Year	Amount
2009/10	\$75,800
2010/11	\$77,000
2011/12	\$79,000

- Recurrent expenses (for recurrent actions & expenses)
- Money set aside for risk and emergency works
- Capital works (for high, medium & low actions)

Potential Grant Sources

A number of websites list potential funding sources. The following is a list of useful sites that may provide funding for capital works:

<http://www.grantslink.gov.au/>

<http://www.grants.dvc.vic.gov.au/>

<http://www.CoMmunitywatergrants.gov.au/>

http://www.ourCoMmunity.CoM.au/funding/grant_main.jsp

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding_calendar.htm

<http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au>

Monitoring, Review, Evaluation and Reporting to DSE

Monitoring the progress of the actions on an annual basis is recommended. A review of the work plan for the following year may then require adjustments to include actions not yet achieved or to bring forward actions that may be achieved earlier than originally predicted.

Management Plans must be reviewed and a new plan prepared every 3 years. Preparation of a new plan should include a review of the progress attained in the life of the Plan. Reporting to DSE on the proposed actions on an annual basis is recommended, as grant opportunities often arise at short notice and can be applied for on behalf of the CoM.

Land Status

“The Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 provides a Comprehensive integrated management framework for the coast of Victoria” (Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 Page 5). The Strategy is established under the Coastal Management Act 1995 and provides for long-term planning of the Victorian coast for the next 100 years and beyond” (Victorian Coastal Strategy 2008 Page 5).

Reserve regulations were declared in 1986 (Government Gazette 77, September 24th page 3625-3628) and set out the powers of the Committee to regulate behaviour, shooting, damage, camping use of facilities, issuing of permits and animal management, use of vehicles and granting of permits. The Reserve reference number is RS3972/8 and it is made up of ten Crown allotments (table below) in the Parish of Woolamai.

Gazette Recordings for San Remo Foreshore Reserve; Parish of Woolami

CROWN ALLOTMENT	HECTARE (HA)	PROTECTION	PARCEL NUMBER	GAZETTE DATE AND PAGE
11A	8.6	NO PART OF ORIG?	P240501	
11B	0.25	NO PART OF ORIG?	P240502	
1K	0.18	TEMPORARILY	P240508	31/8/1983 1983, PG 2778
1L	0.2529	TEMP	P240509	4/7/1973 1973, PG 2299
1N	2.8	TEMP	P240511	11/6/1952 1952 PG 3159
25A	0.32	NO PART OF ORIG?	P240515	8/6/1955 PG2821
25B	14.362	PERM	P240503	19/11/1924 1924, PG 3759
10E	0.68	TEMP	P240514	14/9/1977 1977, PG 2949
1P	0.07	NO PART OF ORIG?	P363642	
11C	0.0035	NO PART OF ORIG?	P243284	

Crown Allotments & Protection for San Remo Foreshore Reserve

Date	Year	Page	Reason
19 November 1924	1924	3759	Permanently Reserved Crown Allotment 25B
11 June 1952	1952	3159	Temporilily Reserved Crown Allotment 1N
8 June 1955	1955	2821	Crown Allotment 25A
4 July 1973	1973	2299	Temporilily Reserved Crown Allotment 1L
14 Spetember 1977	1977	2949	Temporilily Reserved Crown Allotment 10E
31 August 1983	1983	2778	Temporilily Reserved Crown Allotment 1K
24 September 1986	1986	3625	Reserve Regulations
15 August 1990	1990	2522	Committee Incorporation

CONSULTING

Name	Organisation
Martin Gill	Bass Coast Shire
Peter Francis	Bass Coast Shire
Paul Smith	Bass Coast Shire
Graeme Davis	Parks Victoria
Barry Hopkins	Community
Leanne Khan	DSE
Mick Dortmans	DSE
Jenny Churchill	Bass Coast Shire
Carol Blair	Foreshore CoM
Albert Sage	Foreshore CoM
Geoff Rhoda	Foreshore CoM
Leigh Hart	Foreshore CoM
Harvey Dinelli	Vic Roads
Lester Smith	Community
Chris Day	Community
Rendell Bourne	Community
David Rooks	Community
Phil & Jean Dunstan	Community
Peter & Robert McClelland (Oral input)	Western Port Pastoral

REFERENCES

Murphy, Andrea 2003
San Remo Foreshore Reserve
Cultural Heritage Assessment & Management Plan
AAV Project 2164 Project 1404
A Report to San Remo Foreshore Committee
Tardis Enterprises Pty.Ltd.

APPENDIX 1 DETAILS OF LEGISLATION, FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES

The following is an overview of the key legislation, frameworks and policies that directly affect and direct the management of the Reserve

Links to State/Local Policy

- Victorian Coastal Strategy and Coastal Action Plans
- Bass Coast Shire San Remo, Cape Woolami and Newhaven Structure Plan
- Coastal Management Act 1995
- Fauna and Flora Guarantee Act 1988
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Climate Change Green Paper
- CoM guidelines
- DSE Caravan Park policies

Any development on the Foreshore reserve needs to be consistent with Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast (VCC 1998), and Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study (DSE 2006).

Department of Sustainability and Environment (2006) Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study: State Overview Report September 2006, Victorian Government, Melbourne. www.dse.vic.gov.au/dse

Victorian Coastal Council (1998) Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast, Victorian Government, Australia. www.vcc.vic.gov.au

Victorian Coastal Council (2008) Victorian Coastal Strategy, Victorian Government, Australia. www.vcc.vic.gov.au

Commonwealth

The ***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*** delineates areas of Commonwealth and State responsibility for the natural environment. This Act defines the Commonwealth's role in managing the environment as limited to matters of national environmental significance, such as Ramsar wetlands. The Act aims primarily to provide for the protection of the environment, promote ecologically sustainable development and promote the conservation of biodiversity. This Act applies to the XX Reserve due to its protection under the Ramsar Convention 1971.

The broad aim of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (***Ramsar Convention 1971***) is to reverse the worldwide loss of wetlands and to recognise and conserve those that remain. Wetlands are defined as shallow, open waters such as lakes, rivers and coastal fringes, and any land, which is regularly or intermittently

saturated, by water, such as marshes, swamps and floodplains. Currently there are over eighty countries, which are Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

The whole of Western Port is protected under the Ramsar Convention. The X Reserve, therefore, abuts an area of international significance and hence, activities and impacts originating from within the reserve must aim to conserve and enhance the wetland.

Management relating to wetland areas in the Reserve is located in sections 4.1.2, 4.2, 5, 6.2 and 8.

Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 established the Australian Heritage Commission. The main role of the Commission is to advise the relevant Minister, on matters relating to the National Estate. This includes advice relating to actions identifying, conserving, improving and preserving the national estate. The National Estate consists of those places, natural and/or cultural, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present Community.

State

The ***Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*** provides for the reservation of Crown land for a variety of public purposes, the appointment of Committees of management to manage those reserves and for leasing and licensing of reserves for purposes approved by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

The Coastal Management Act

The ***Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*** (State) provides legislative protection for all Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, places and objects, with the involvement of Aboriginal people. Under the Act, coastal areas are considered to have high cultural heritage sensitivity and where works include high impact activities, a Cultural Heritage Management plan is required to be prepared.

The Act recognises Aboriginal people as the “primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage” and establishes the Aboriginal Heritage Council of 11 traditional owners and Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs). RAPs play a lead role in administering the Act, including evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans and providing advice on applications for Cultural Heritage Permits.

The ***Environment Protection Act 1970*** provides the legal framework by which environmental objectives, regulations and goals are established throughout the State for industry, Commerce and the general public. The Act reflects the precautionary principle, the protection of intergenerational equity; the polluter pays principle, and the protection of biodiversity. It puts the responsibility for sound environmental management on Victorian businesses, Communities and individuals. The Act aims to achieve greater environmental performance through shifting to collaboration and co-regulation as opposed to the traditional ‘Command and control’.

The ***Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*** provides the legal framework to conserve Victoria's native plants and animals. Its broad aim is to prevent the extinction of any more plants and animals and to ensure that native flora and fauna survive, flourish and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild.

The Wildlife Act 1975 was passed to establish procedures in order to promote the protection and conservation of wildlife, the prevention of taxa of wildlife from becoming extinct, the sustainable use of and access to wildlife and to prohibit and regulate the conduct of persons engaged in activities concerning or related to wildlife. Permits to keep wildlife are issued pursuant to this Act.

The ***Planning and Environment Act 1987*** establishes State planning and land use processes including provisions for planning schemes for individual council areas. A planning scheme is a statutory document, which sets out objectives, policies and provisions relating to the use, development, protection and conservation of land in the area to which it applies. A planning scheme regulates the use and development of land through planning provisions to achieve those objectives and policies. Every planning scheme includes the State Planning Policy Framework. This Framework consists of general principles for land use and development in Victoria and specific policies dealing with settlement, environment, housing, economic development, infrastructure, and particular uses and development. The Local Planning Policy Framework sets a local and regional strategic policy context for a municipality including Crown land. It comprises the Municipal Strategic Statement and specific local planning policies.

Victoria's Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action 2002 establishes the strategic direction for the protection, enhancement and revegetation of native vegetation across Victoria. It establishes the primary goal for native vegetation management is to achieve, "A reversal, across the entire landscape, of the long-term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation, leading to a Net Gain." If native vegetation, is proposed to be removed, as part of a land use or development proposal, planning and responsible authorities should achieve a Net Gain outcome, as defined in the Framework. This is achieved firstly, as a priority, by avoiding adverse impacts, particularly native vegetation clearance; secondly, if impacts cannot be avoided, by minimising impacts through appropriate consideration in planning processes and expert input into project design or management; and thirdly, by identifying appropriate offset actions. The criteria for determining the appropriate response and offsets are contained within the Framework.

The ***Western Port Perspective*** was prepared in 2000 and looked at the entire bay and any land that contained activities that could affect the Western Port environment. The report looks at the methods for placing values on the attributes within the Port and the risks to those values posed by various human and environmental problems. These risks are analysed and prioritised for the study area with specific management directions and actions.

Although many of the risks listed in this document are associated with Port activities, risks that are of relevance to the Reserve include pest plants and animals, coastal

erosion and urban stormwater. Management actions for the overall management of Western Port include:

- Protect native flora and fauna (including management of pest plants and animals);
- Focus on appreciating the natural environment;
- Revegetate and stabilise degraded sites to prevent soil erosion;
- Protect sites of environmental and cultural significance; and,
- Inform and educate the public and local Community on the natural values of Western Port and how they can be protected and enhanced.

Sites of Zoological Significance in the Western Port Region (Andrew et. al., 1984)

recognises the remnant vegetation as being of regional significance as faunal habitat. Some of the largest areas of remnant native vegetation on the eastern shoreline of Western Port are either within the Reserve or the immediate vicinity and support a range of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Further fragmentation or disturbance of this vegetation is strongly discouraged.

Sites of Botanical Significance (Opie et. al., 1984) presents field data collected in 1980/1982 describing the vegetation of the Western Port region. The objective of the study was to identify areas and sites that had significant values so that land-use planning and management in those areas can take these values into account. A numerical analysis of data describes Communities, sub-Communities and their significance. Changes in vegetation types over time and threats to floristic Composition are also detailed. Salt marsh Communities are identified as being of national significance.